



NC's Safer Schools Initiative

Presented as part of the

NC Emergency Management Forum

Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice

N.C. Center for Safer Schools



The N.C. Center for Safer Schools Opening

March 19, 2013

- ▶ Apex Middle School in Apex, NC Gov. Pat McCrory announced the creation of the NC Center for Safer Schools.
- ▶ The Center was placed in the Department of Public Safety and charged with evaluating the status of school safety across the state.
- ▶ The new Center would serve as a collaborative, convening entity and a centralized and customer-focused school safety and crisis prevention resource.

The N.C. Center for Safer Schools Opening



Press Conference, Apex Middle School



Press Conference, Apex Middle School

March 19, 2013



Press Conference, Apex Middle School

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The N.C. Center for Safer Schools Forums

- ▶ Designed to be representative of the state, sites ranged from coast to mountains and from primary schools to high schools.

- ▶ Included four sequential activities at each location:
 - Safety and onsite review tours at schools
 - Facilitated small group discussion with students
 - Informal session facilitated by the DPS Secretary with local stakeholders
 - General forum open to the public facilitated by the DPS Chief Operating Officer that included a panel of local experts.

Presentation of The N.C. Center for Safer Schools 2013 Report to The Governor



- ▶ The recommendations in the report can be broken down into four categories: physical security, mental health, school climate, and emergency management .
- ▶ The Report creates a conceptual model which includes four levels in a continuum of preparation and response: (1)prevention, (2)intervention, (3)crisis response and (4)crisis recovery.
- ▶ Gov. McCrory also signed Executive Order No. 25 creating the Governor's Task Force on Safer Schools.

N.C. Center for Safer Schools 2013 Report to the Governor



NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
PREVENT. PROTECT. INSURE.
Division of Juvenile Justice

www.centerforsaferschools.org



Current Center Activities

- ▶ Funding Secured for Smart Phone App for Anonymous Reporting
- ▶ Establishment of 4 Positions to Work With the Center
- ▶ Legislation from Most Recent Session of NC General Assembly
- ▶ Web-based emergency planning tool
- ▶ Awareness sessions with key stakeholders
- ▶ Building collaboration across state and local entities



School and Youth Violence Myths

- Youth Violence is an Epidemic

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School Crime and Violence in N.C.

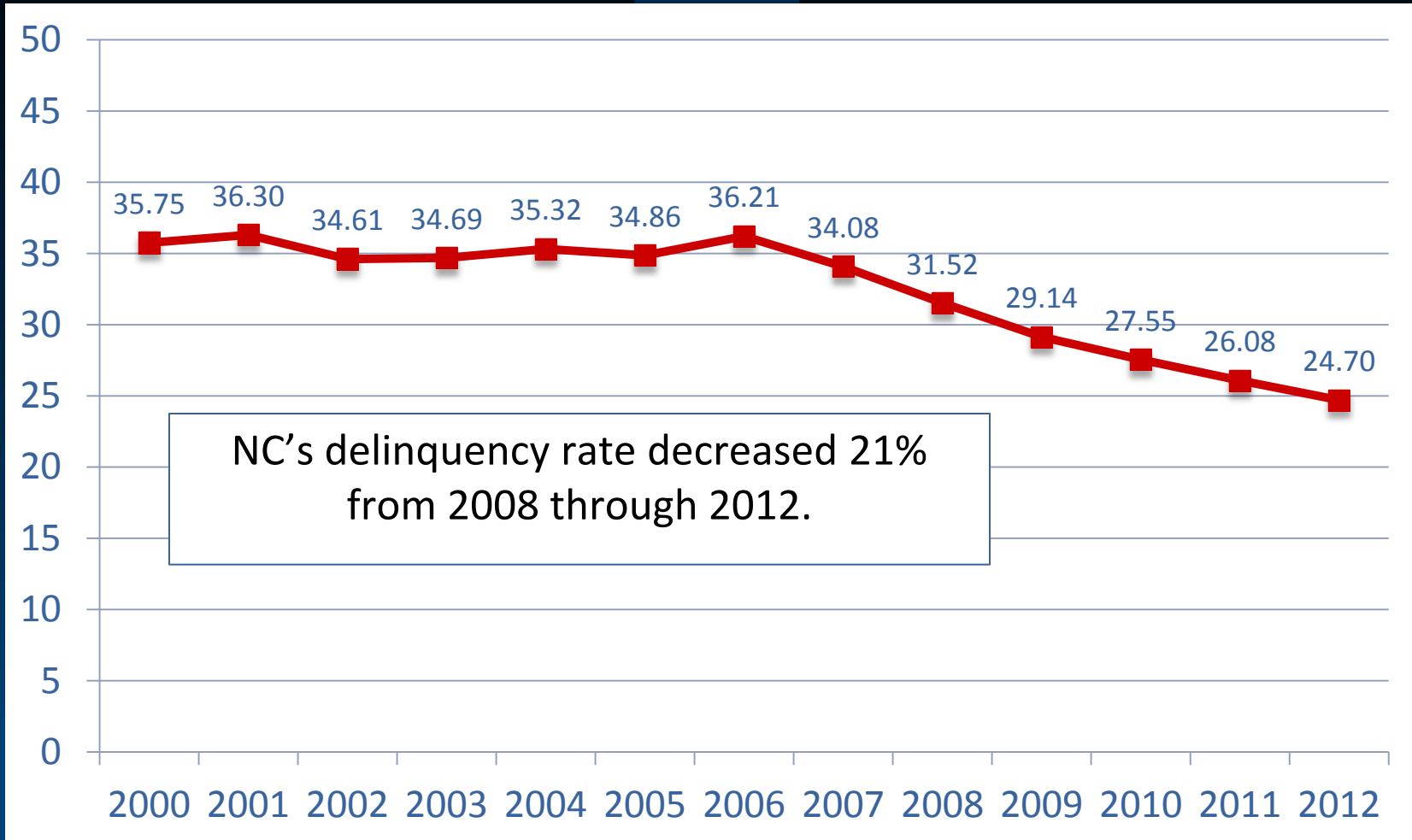
Department of Public Instruction



- ▶ The number of acts of violence by high school students in North Carolina decreased by **3%** from 2010 to 2011
- ▶ The percent of high school students who engaged in physical fights on school property within the past twelve months fell from **16%** in 1993 to **10%** in 2011
- ▶ There was a **5.5%** decrease in the number of short-term suspensions and a **37.8%** decrease in long-term suspensions reported statewide from 2010 to 2011

2000-2012 Delinquency Rate

NC's juvenile delinquency rate* is at an all-time low.



*Delinquency rate is defined as delinquent complaints received per 1,000 youth ages 6-15.



School Crime and Violence in N.C.

N.C. Youth Risk Behavior Survey

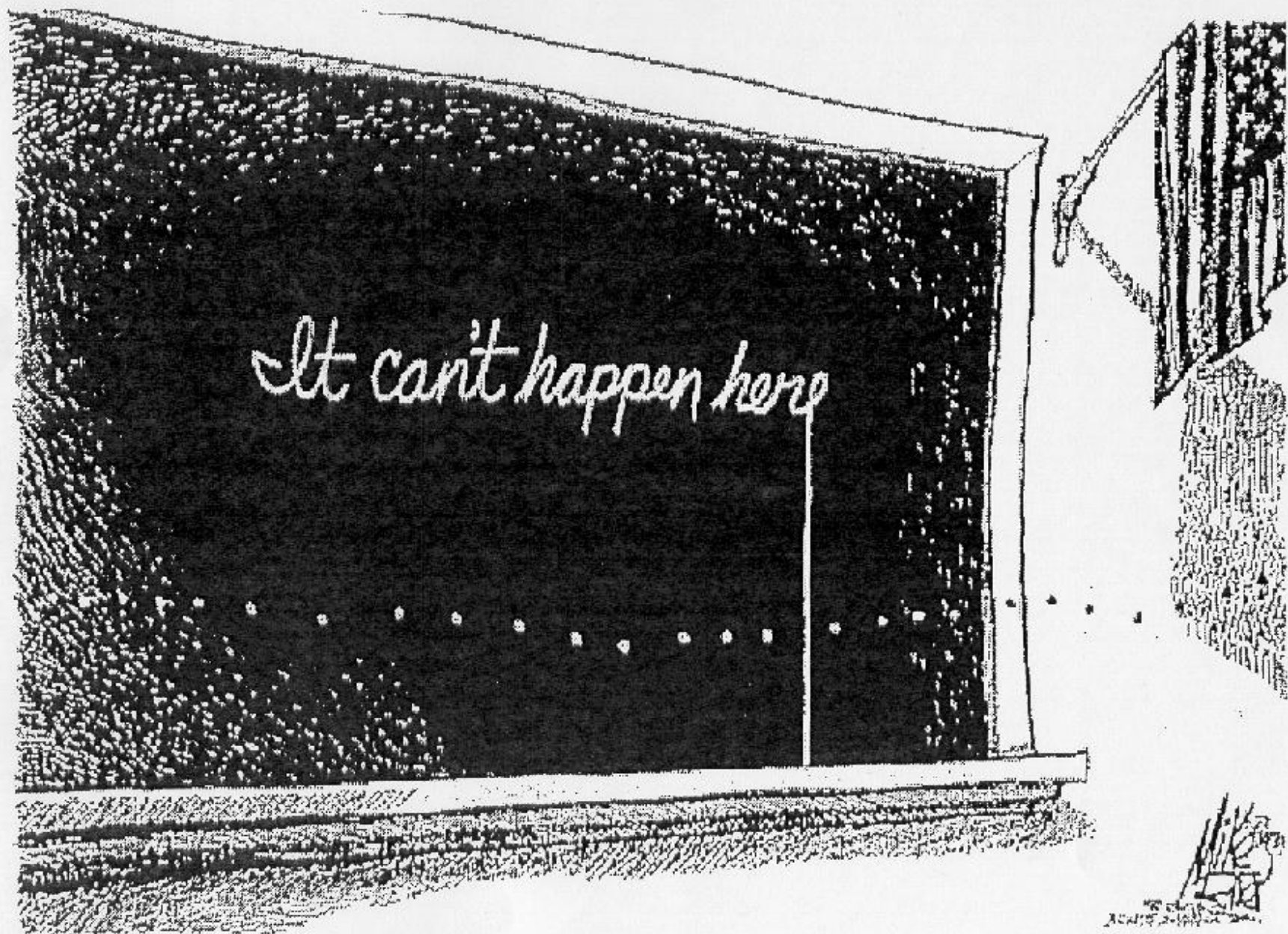
- ▶ The percentage of students who have been threatened or injured with a weapon increased from **6.8%** in 2009 to **9.1%** in 2011.
- ▶ The number of high school students who were bullied on school property increased by **4%**.



School and Youth Violence Myths

- It can't happen here

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10-11-1971
J. C. H. 2-10-1971

Student Perceptions of Personal Safety



- ▶ Results from a recent North Carolina Youth Risk Behavior survey indicate that **7%** of high school students and nearly **4%** of middle school students did not go to school on one or more days because they felt they would be unsafe at school or on their way to or from school
- ▶ In a *nationally* representative survey from 2011, **4%** of high school students reported that they were afraid of attack or harm at school.

N.C. Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS): 2011

<http://www.nchealthyschools.org/data/yrbs/>



BULLYING

- ▶ 42% of middle school students and 20% of high school students in North Carolina have been victims of bullying.
- ▶ In a *national* survey, 28% of students ages 12-18 reported being bullied at school.

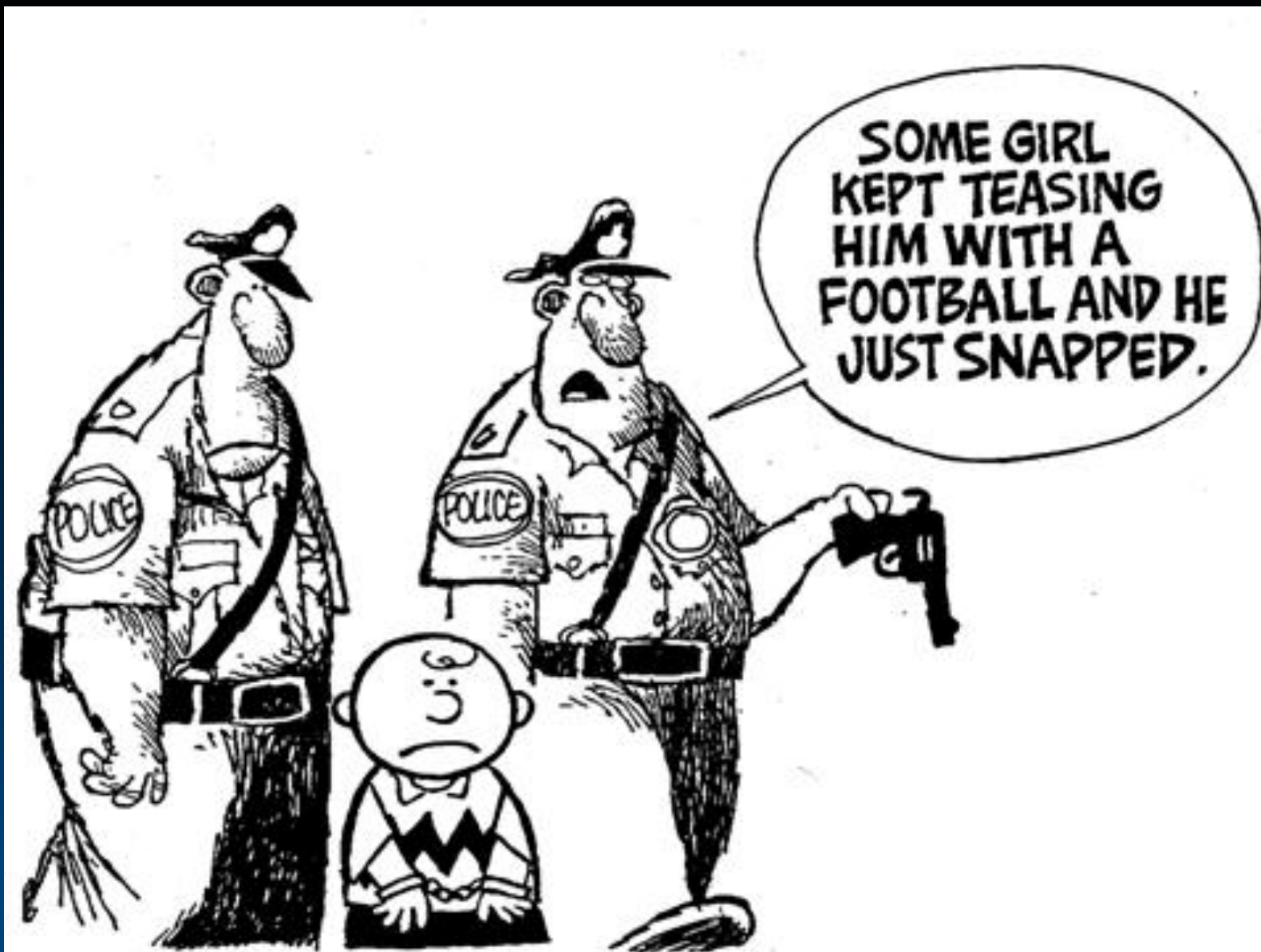
Indicators of School Crime and Safety: 2011

<http://bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/iscs11.pdf>

N.C. Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS): 2011

<http://www.nchealthyschools.org/data/yrbs/>







CYBER BULLYING

- ▶ Just over **15%** of high school students in North Carolina reported being victims of electronic bullying.
- ▶ A national survey indicates that **8%** of students in grades 9-12 were victims of electronic bullying.

Indicators of School Crime and Safety: 2011

<http://bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/iscs11.pdf>

N.C. Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS): 2011

<http://www.nchealthyschools.org/data/yrbs/>





GANGS

- ▶ More than 22% of middle school students and nearly 40% of high school students in North Carolina reported gang activity at their schools.
- ▶ In 2009, a *national* survey indicated that 20% of students ages 12-18 were aware of gang activity at their schools.

Indicators of School Crime and Safety: 2011

<http://bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/iscs11.pdf>

N.C. Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS): 2011

<http://www.nchealthyschools.org/data/yrbs/>



SUICIDE

- ▶ **14%** of high school students and **21%** of middle school students in North Carolina have seriously considered attempting suicide.
 - **13%** made a plan about how they would attempt suicide
 - **5%** of the students had attempted suicide
- ▶ Nationwide, **15.8%** of students had seriously considered attempting suicide
 - **12.8%** made a plan about how they would attempt suicide
 - **7.8%** of students had attempted suicide

Indicators of School Crime and Safety: 2011

<http://bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/iscs11.pdf>

National Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS): 2011

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/ss/ss6104.pdf>



DRUGS

- ▶ **30%** of high school students in North Carolina have been offered, sold, or given illegal drugs on school property.
 - **43%** reported using marijuana one or more times
 - **20%** reported taking a prescription drug, such as Adderall and Ritalin, without a doctor's prescription
- ▶ In a *national* survey, **23%** of students, grades 9-12, were offered, sold, or given illegal drugs on school property.

Indicators of School Crime and Safety: 2011

<http://bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/iscs11.pdf>

N.C. Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS): 2011

<http://www.nchealthyschools.org/data/yrbs/>





WEAPONS

- ▶ **10%** of students in grades 9–12 in North Carolina have been threatened or injured with a weapon such as a gun, knife, or club on school property
- ▶ **20%** of students in grades 9–12 in North Carolina have carried a weapon such as a gun, knife, or club on school property
- ▶ In a *national* survey, **8%** of students in grades 9–12 reported being threatened or injured with a weapon, such as a gun, knife, or club, on school property.

Indicators of School Crime and Safety: 2011

<http://bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/iscs11.pdf>

N.C. Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS): 2011

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School and Youth Violence Myths

- Schools are unsafe places

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School and Youth Violence Myths

- Students are more likely to be victimized in their own homes than at school

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School and Youth Violence Myths

- The solution is gun control

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School and Youth Violence Myths

- Less than 1% of all school violence has anything to do with a gun.

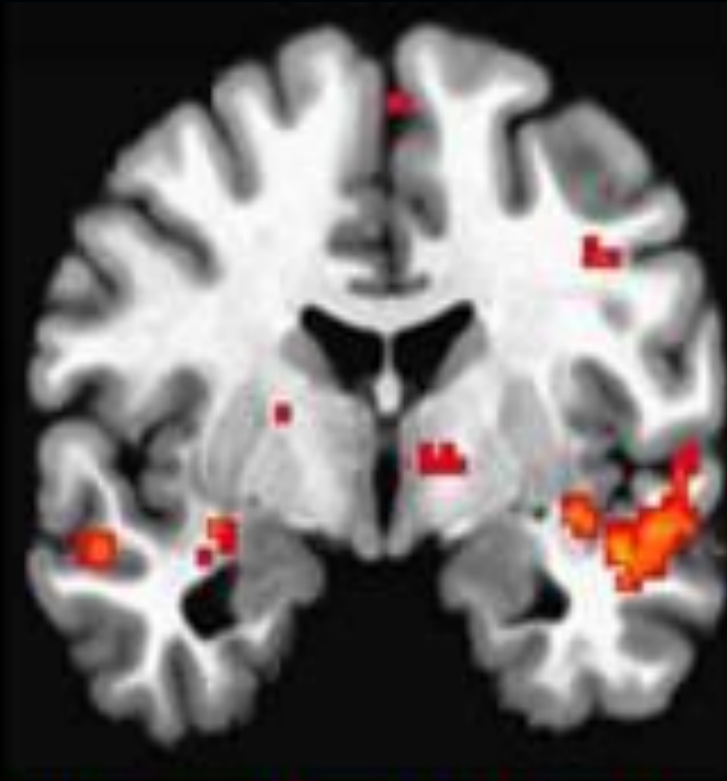
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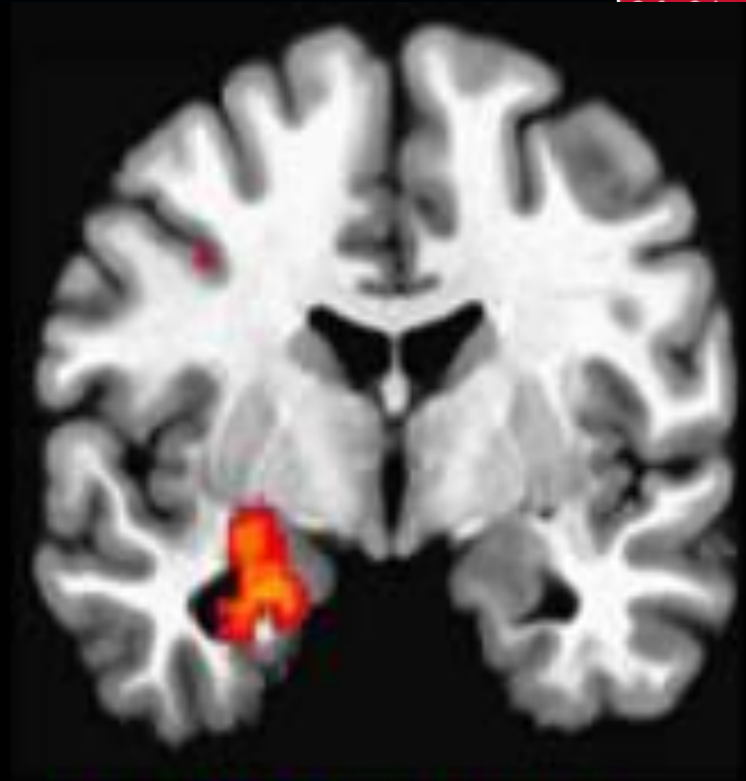
School and Youth Violence Myths

- The cause is the media

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Non-violent game players



Violent game players



School and Youth Violence Myths

- Zero tolerance is the solution

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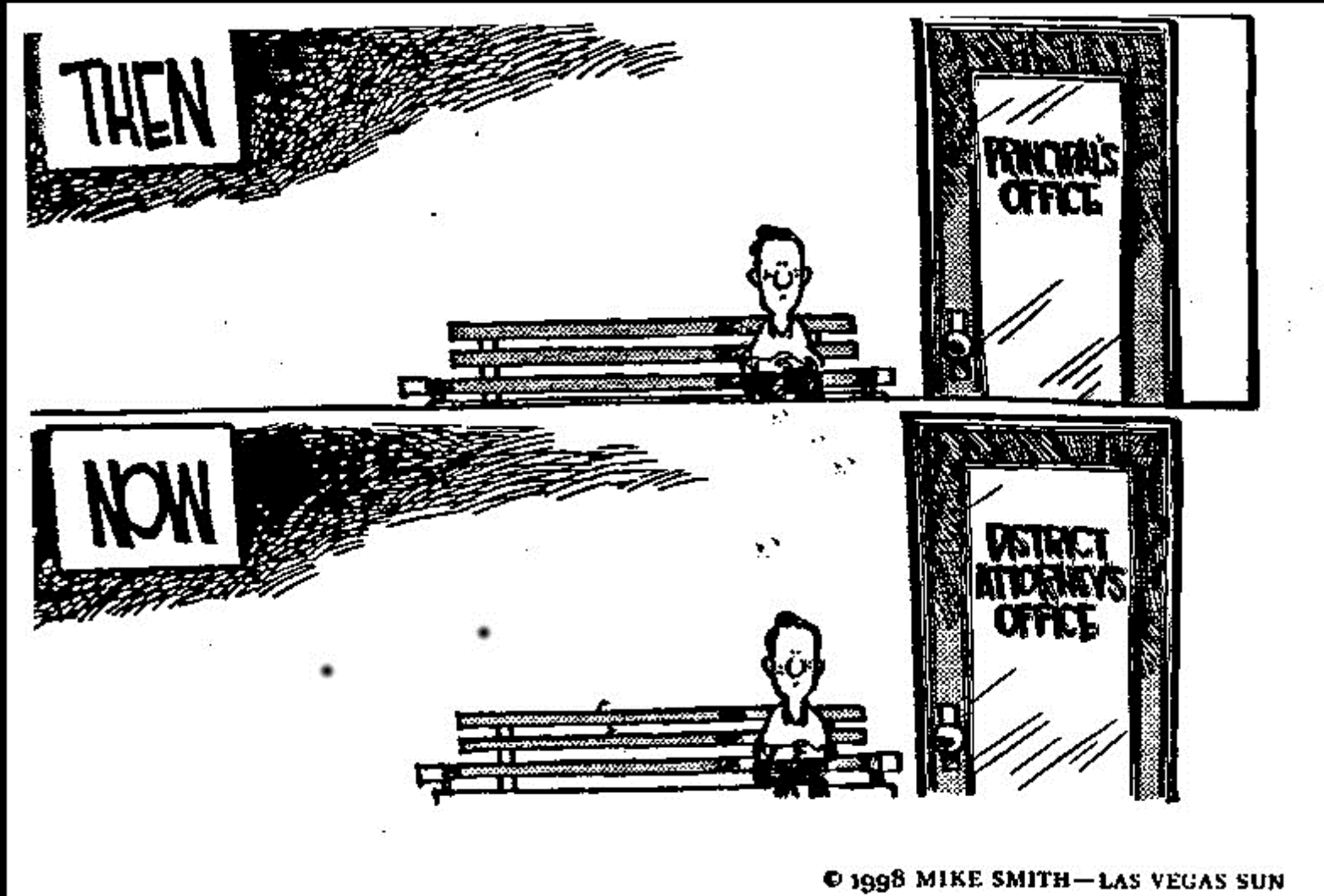
SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION

- ▶ One of seven (**14.3%**) North Carolina high school students receives a short-term suspension each year.
- ▶ The number of expulsions fell from 69 in 2010 to 30 in 2011.
- ▶ Results from a national survey indicate that **7%** of high school students were suspended in 2009.

Indicators of School Crime and Safety: 2011

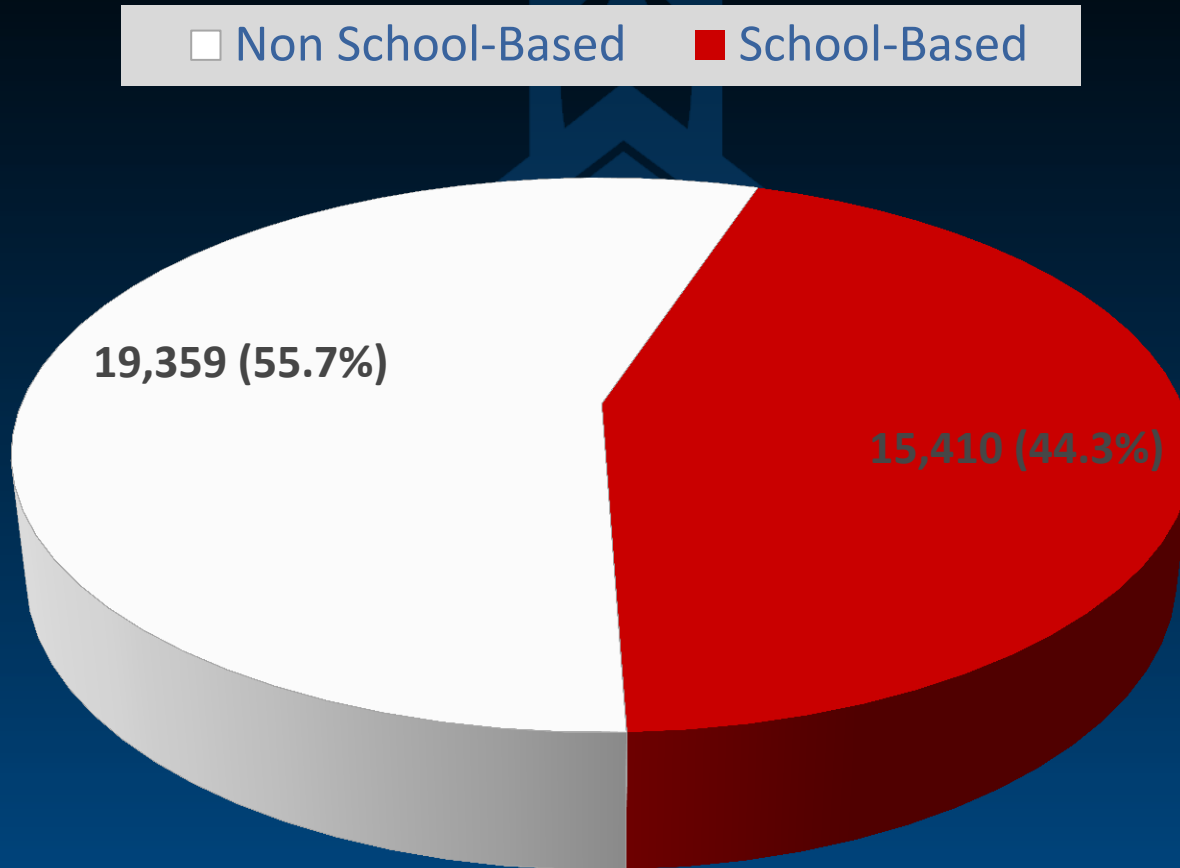
<http://bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/iscs11.pdf>

Report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee
State Board of Education, Department of Public Instruction
www.ncpublicschools.org/docs/research/discipline/reports/consolidated/2011-12/consolidated-report.pdf



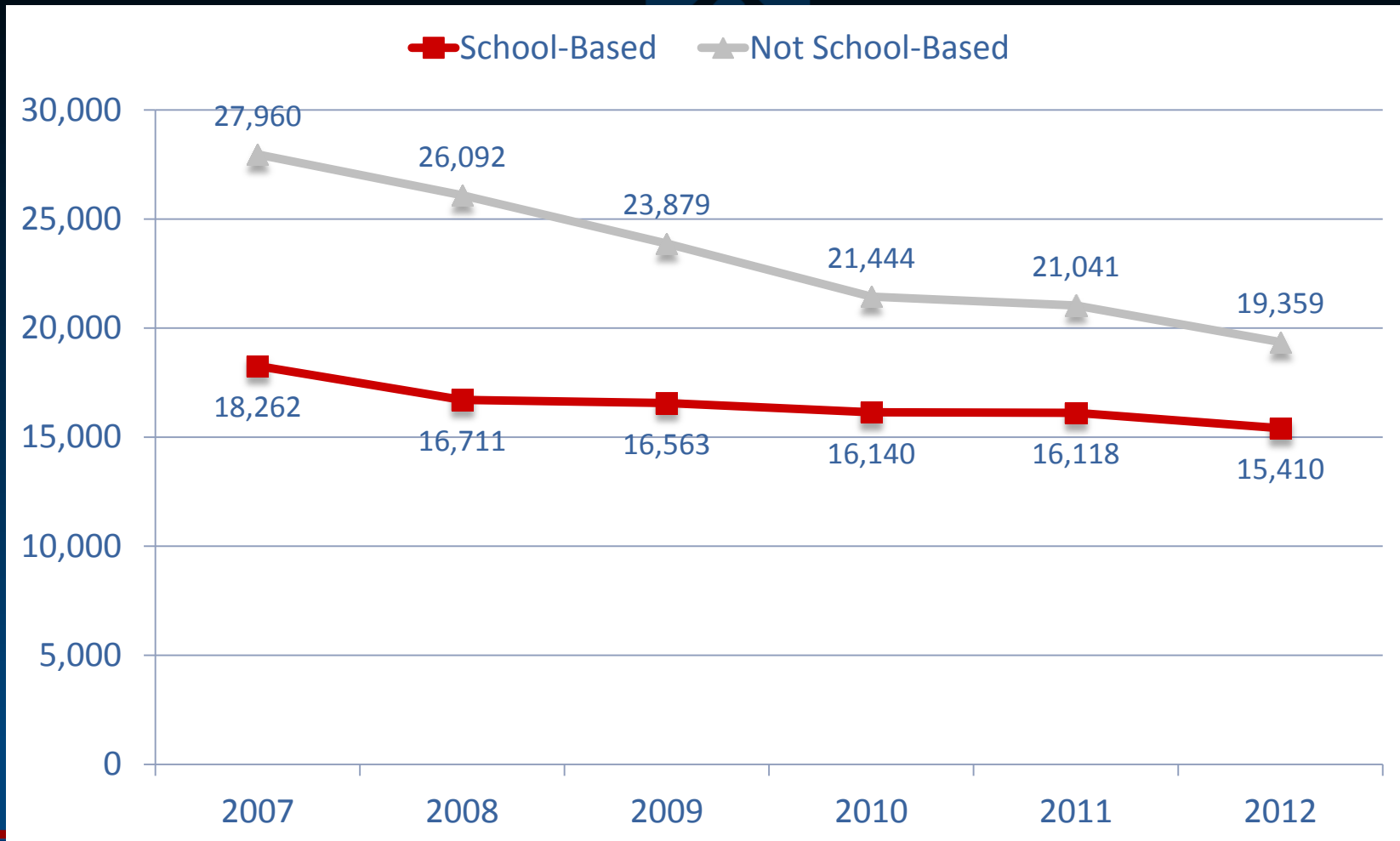
School-Based Offenses

In 2012, 44% of all complaints received were school-based.



School-Based Offenses

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School and Youth Violence Myths

- It is all the parents fault

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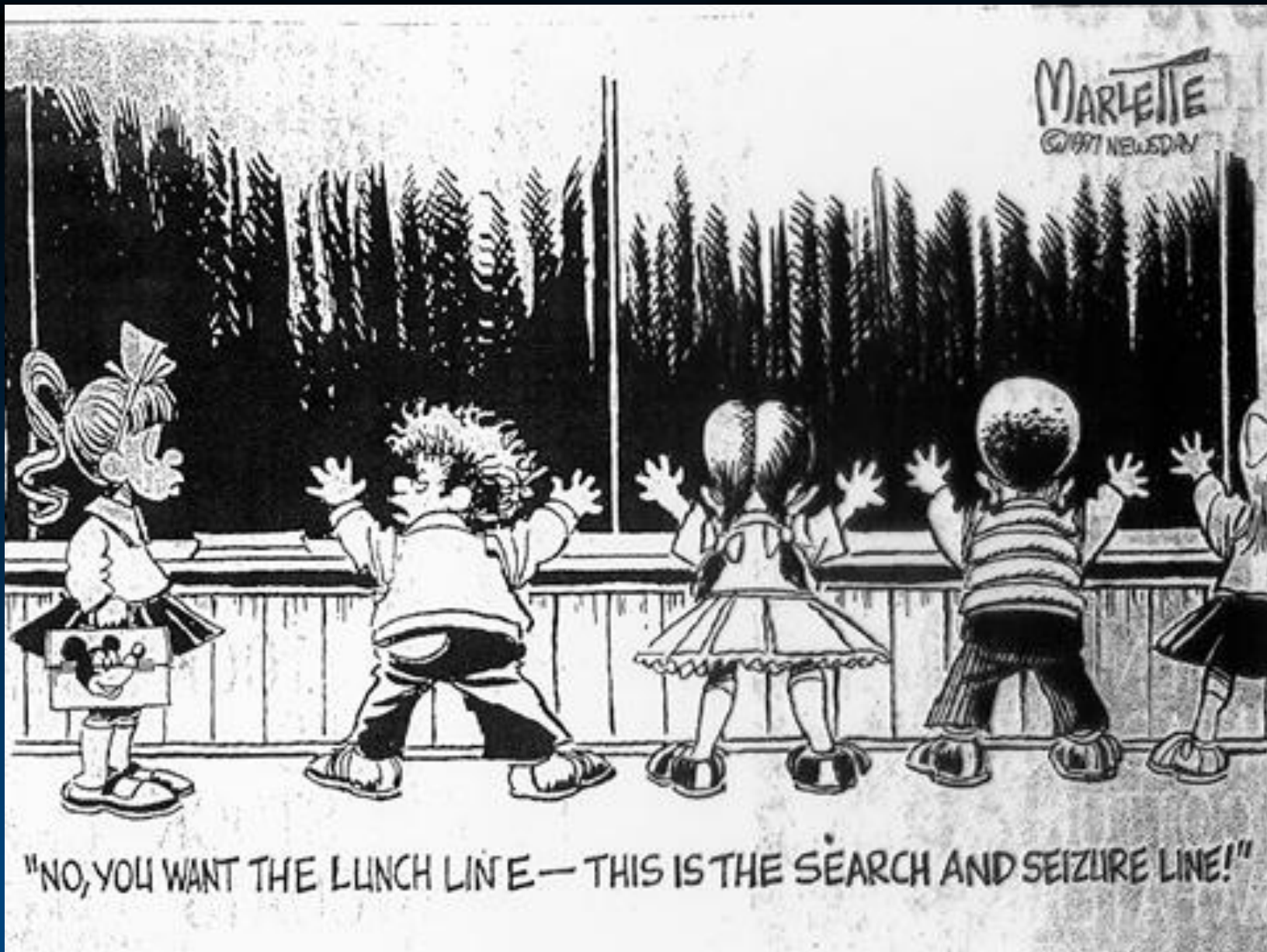


PARENT VIEWS

- ▶ **25%** of parents identified improvement of physical security in and entering the school building as a factor that would make them feel more secure about their children at school

Are We Safe?: The 2000 National Crime Prevention Survey, National Crime Prevention Council, 2001

http://www.adt.com/divisions/residential/in_your_community/overview.cfm

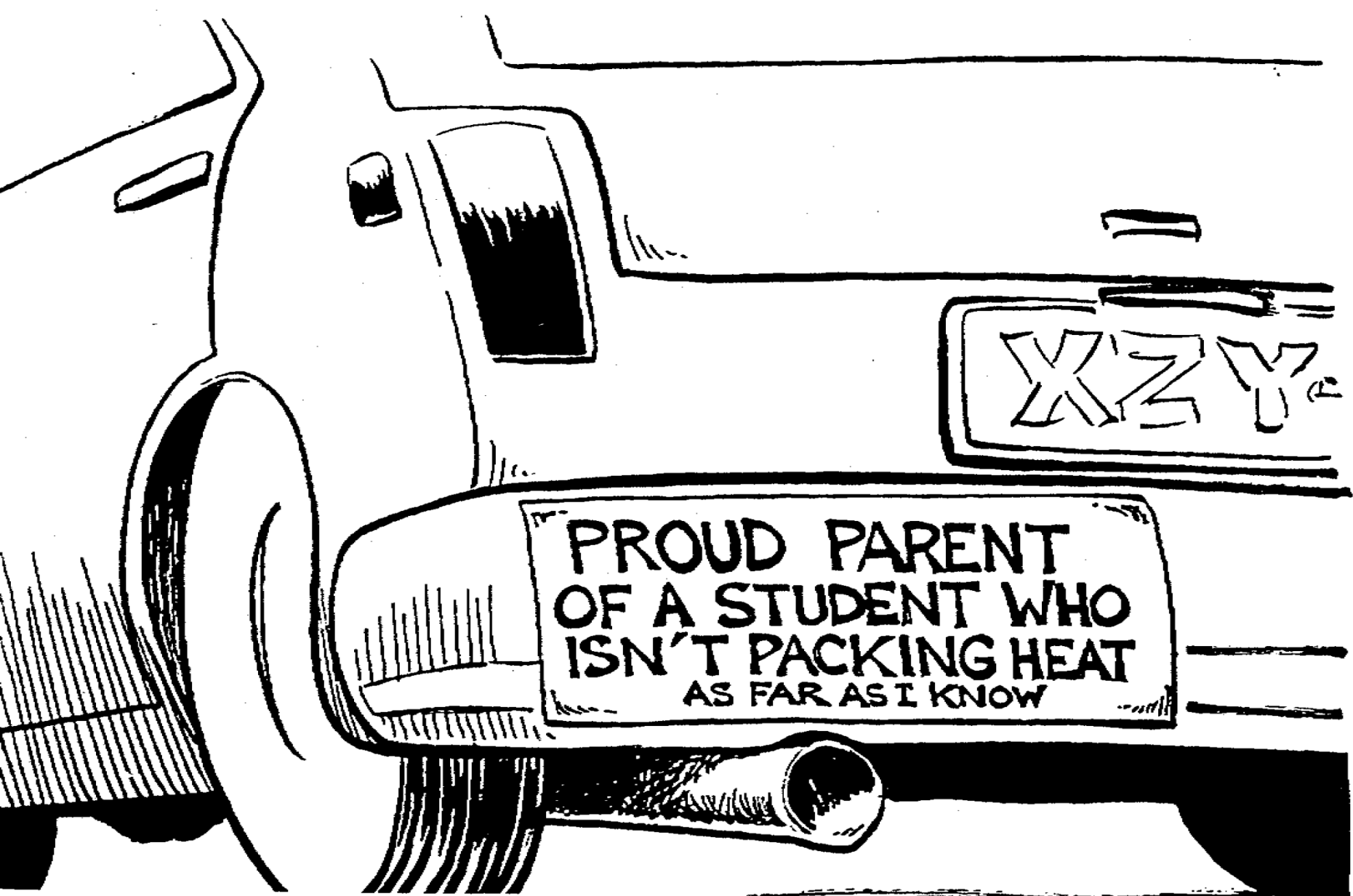


PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

- ▶ **27% of teens felt lack of parental involvement was the biggest cause of school violence.**

The State of Our Nation's Youth 2001,
Horatio Alger Association, 2001

<http://www.horatioalger.com/pubmat/surpro.htm>



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Quotations are compiled from press, TV and wire-service reports, as well as from NEWSWEEK correspondents.



School and Youth Violence Myths

There is a single solution or program that will work for all students

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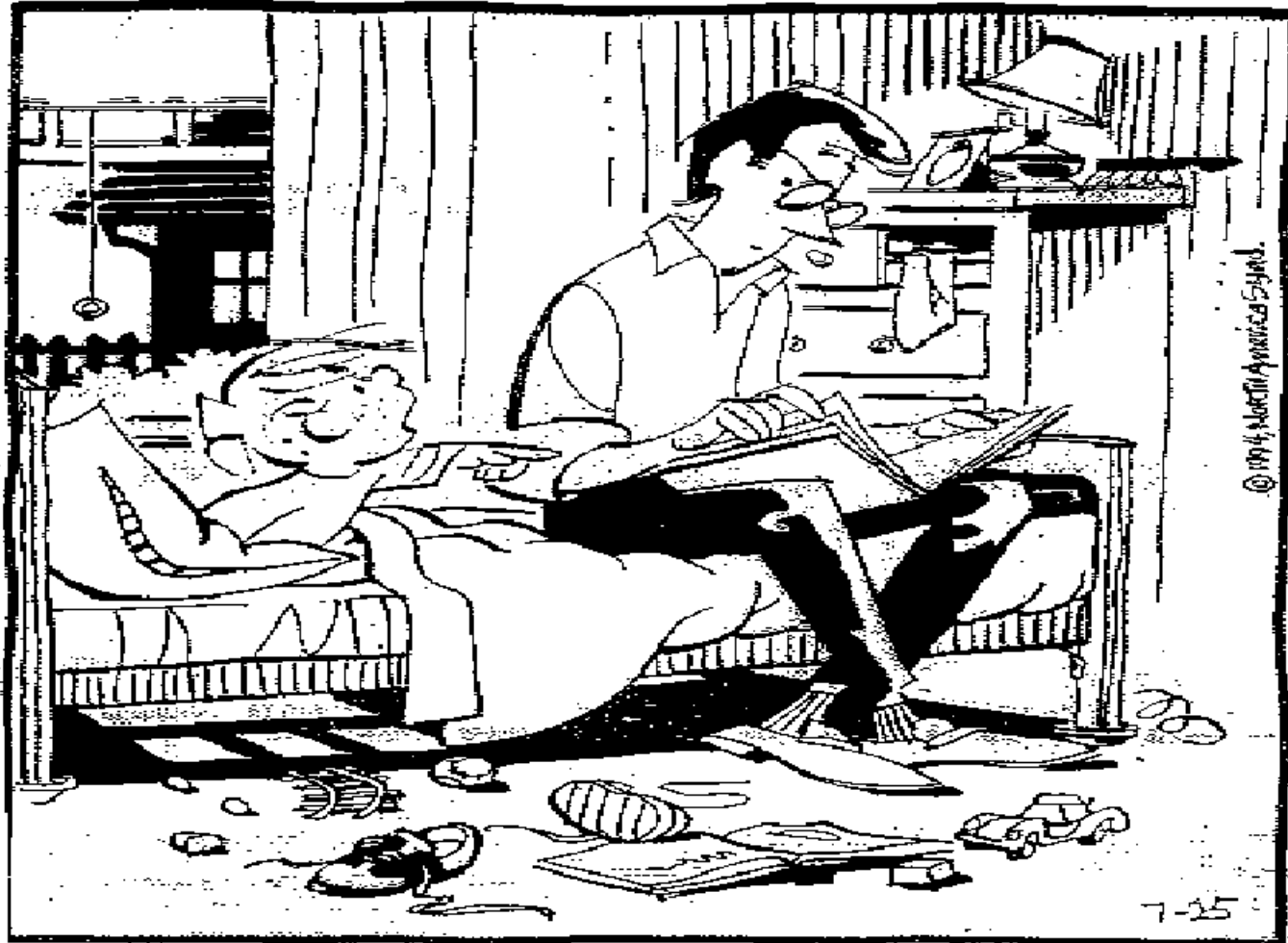
SAFER SCHOOLS PYRAMID



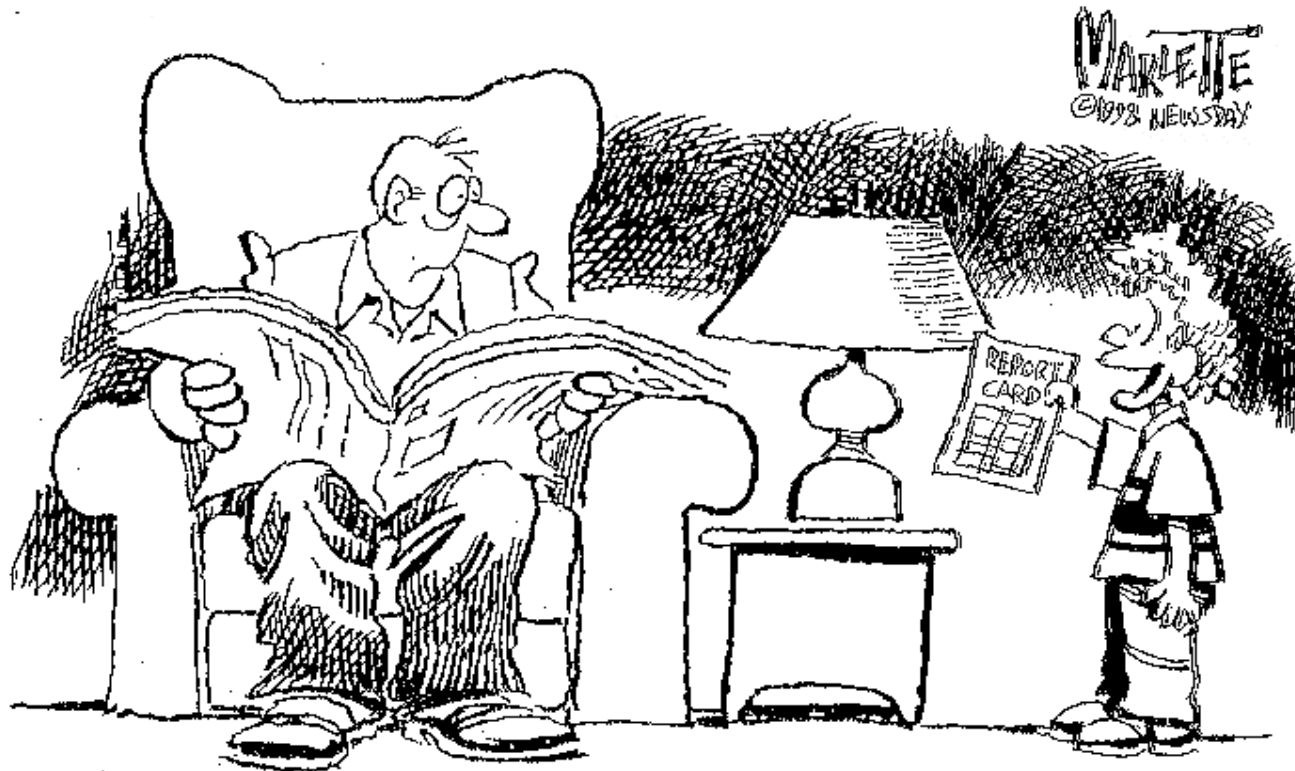


SIGNE WILKINSON, Philadelphia Daily News

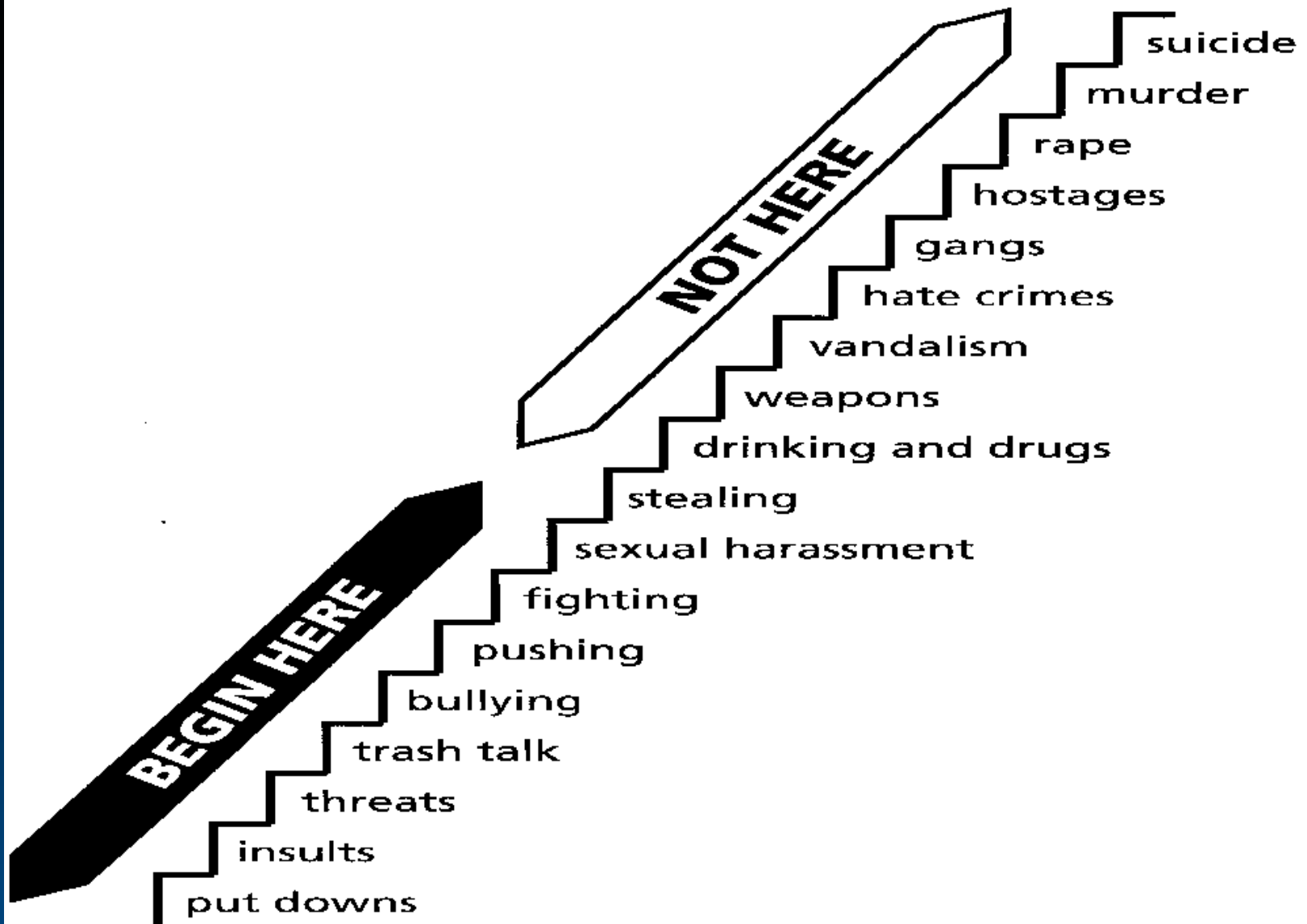
DENNIS THE MENACE



"I'LL BET JILL **PUSHED** JACK!"



I GO "AN "A" FOR NOT BRINGING A WEAPON TO SCHOOL!"





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